

CONFIDENTIAL

26 June 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with House Judiciary Staff re Douglas  
Impeachment Resolutions

25X1 1. In a brief conversation with Garner J. Cline, Counsel, House Immigration and Nationality Subcommittee, on another matter, I brought up Chairman Celler's letter to the Director asking for information in connection with the various resolutions which have been submitted calling for the impeachment of Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas. I queried Cline as to the staff member handling this. It so happened that within seconds of my mentioning this, Mr. Kenneth R. Harkins, Chief Counsel, Antitrust Subcommittee, dropped in Cline's office. Cline introduced us and I mentioned the Chairman's letter to the Director. Harkins was rather uncommunicative except to say that the Committee was trying to move rapidly on a report to the House on these resolutions and added somewhat in jest that he also expected us to appear with volumes of material since he understood [redacted] (mentioned in Celler's letter) had worked for the Agency at one time.

2. Cline told me privately later that the political aspects of the Douglas matter were quite intense. It had originally been expected that once the resolutions were referred to the Judiciary Committee a long, somewhat tedious, and objective process would be involved, but pressure has built up for the Committee to make some kind of a report to the House soon. (This pressure is probably a reaction to an early public statement by Celler that any thought of impeachment proceedings against Douglas was ridiculous.) Cline said the Committee has already obtained a 60-day extension on the deadline [redacted]

25X1 [redacted]  
25X1 [redacted] Cline also said that Harkins is very close to Celler and speaks with Celler's direct backing.

CONFIDENTIAL

**CONFIDENTIAL**

3. Cline also advised me that the Committee ran into difficulty at the outset when they attempted to obtain material from the Internal Revenue Service on the case. Revenue refused to provide anything from its files unless a Presidential directive was given. Such a directive was provided and the Committee reportedly has volumes of IRS material to review. It has also been in touch with the FBI.

[Redacted]

Deputy Legislative Counsel

25X1A

Distribution:

Orig. - Subj.

1 - OGC

1 -

1 -

1 -

1 - Chrono

25X1A

**CONFIDENTIAL**